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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4 and 21 without prejudice.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for preventing a user
from automatically advancing an audio/video signal past ~~undesirable~~
marked material comprising the steps of:

5 (A) detecting possible triggering events during encoding
of said audio/video signal;

(B) generating one or more scores of various levels in
response to said triggering events; and

(C) marking a portion of said audio/video signal in
response to said one or more scores; and

10 (D) preventing said user from advancing past said marked
material during playback in response to said one or more scores.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein
step (A) comprises detecting synchronized audio and video
statistics from both an audio portion and a video portion of said
audio/video signal.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein
said method further comprises the step of:

adapting one or more thresholds and detection criteria
used to generate said one or more scores.

4. (CANCEL)

5. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

inserting alternate material in place of material advanced past in step (C).

6. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 5, wherein step (C) is enabled or disabled in response to a user input.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein one of said one or more scores is used to generate a playlist used to determine a particular portion of the marked ~~undesirable~~ material to skip.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (A) further comprises recording said encoded audio/video signal.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (A) includes events occurring at the beginning of said ~~undesirable~~ marked material and at the end of said ~~undesirable~~ marked material.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~undesirable~~ marked material comprises advertisements.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (C) replaces said ~~undesirable~~ marked material with alternate material.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein a particular one of said scores is used to determine how aggressive said method determines whether a triggering event is detected.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a detector circuit configured to generate (i) an audio/video data signal and (ii) one or more score signals of various levels in response to an input signal; and

5 a data storage device configured to (i) store said audio/video data signal and said one or more score signals and (ii) generate an output signal in response to (a) said stored audio/video signal and (b) one of said score signals, wherein said apparatus is configured to prevent a user from skipping a marked
10 portion of said stored audio/video signal.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~12~~ 13, wherein said apparatus is integrated into an audio/video playback system.

15. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device generates said output signal in further response to a user input.

16. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device comprises a random access storage device.

17. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device comprises a hard disk drive.

18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device comprises an optical disk drive.

19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said detector circuit comprises an audio processor and a video processor each configured to detect triggering events used to generate said scores.

20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said apparatus further comprises an analyzer circuit configured to generate said scores in response to said triggering events.

21. (CANCEL) An apparatus comprising:

means for generating (i) an audio/video data signal and (ii) one or more score signals of various levels in response to an input signal;

5 means for storing said audio/video data signal; and

means for generating an output signal in response to (a) said stored audio/video signal and (b) one of said score signals.

Please add the following new claim:

22. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a detector circuit configured to generate (i) an audio/video data signal and (ii) one or more score signals of various levels in response to an input signal; and

5 a data storage device configured to (i) store said audio/video data signal and (ii) generate an output signal in response to (a) said stored audio/video signal and (b) one of said score signals, wherein (i) said output signal skips portions in response to (a) one of said score signals and (b) a user input
10 configured to initiate a start of said skipped portion.